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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/669,740	09/24/2003	Jin Shenghao	15865.3a.1	4495

7590 03/20/2007
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EXAMINER

AYRES, TIMOTHY MICHAEL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3637

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	03/20/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/669,740	Applicant(s) SHENGHAO ET AL.	
	Examiner Timothy M. Ayres	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,9,10 and 12-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,5-7,9,10 and 12-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

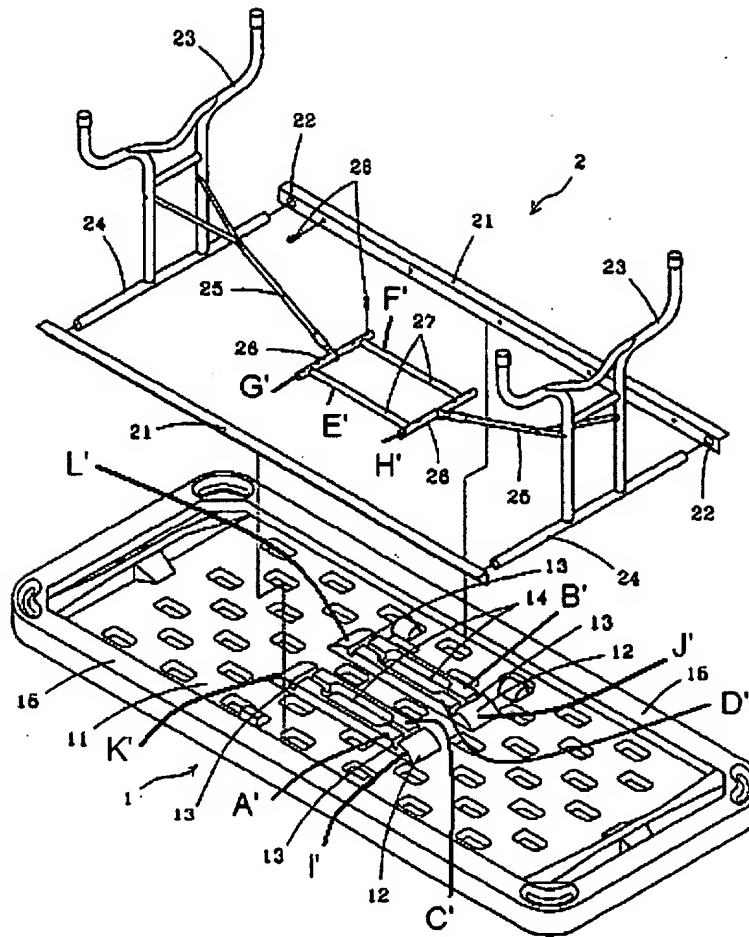
1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 3/12/07 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 10 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Publication 2003/0233967 to Lin. Lin teaches a table (1) with a table top. The table top has a top surface and a bottom surface. A mounting structure (12) is centrally disposed on the bottom surface. The mounting structure (12) includes a first generally c-shaped portion (A', I', K') including a center section (A') that is defined by the grooves (13), a first end portion (K') and a second end portion (I'). The mounting structure (12) includes a second generally c-shaped portion (B', J', L') including a center section (B') defined by the grooves (13), a first end portion (L'), and a second end portion (J'). Even though there are grooves between and defining the end portions from center sections, the bottoms of the grooves are still raised from the bottom surface of the tabletop and therefore the end portions are considered connected to the

Art Unit: 3637

center sections. A box-like region is disposed in the bottom surface of the tabletop as defined by the parts of the mounting structures as seen in figure 1. A support assembly (26,27) is partially connected to the mounting structure (12). The support assembly comprises a first elongated support member (E') attached to the center section (A') of the first generally c-shaped portion (A', I', K') of the mounting structure (12) and a spaced apart second elongated support member (F') attached to the center section (B') of second generally c-shaped portion (B', J', L') of the mounting structure (12). A first connecting member (G') is connected to the first support member (E') and the second support member (F'). A frame assembly has a first leg (23), which is attached to the first end of a first support brace (25). The second end of the first support brace is attached to the first connecting member (G') of support assembly (26,27). The mounting structure (12) comprises a pair of C-shaped mounting ridges (A', B') formed in the first portion (A', C') and the second portion (B', D') of the mounting structure (12) as seen in marked up figure 1 below. The mounting structure (12) is formed integrally with the table top. The table top is formed of blow-molded plastic. A second connecting member (H') is connected to the first support member (E') and the second support member (F'). A second leg (23) is movable between a use position and a storage position. A second support brace (25) includes a first portion and a second portion. The first portion is attached to the second leg (23) and the second portion is attached to the second connecting member (H') of the support assembly (26,27).



Lin '967 Figure 1

3. Lin does not expressly disclose a first and second connecting member connected to a center section of the first support member and a center section of the second support member, and first and second openings in the first and second elongated support members to allow for the connection of the first and second connecting members. As seen in figure 1 the first and second connecting members are connected to the ends of the first and second support members. At the time of the invention it would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the table of

Art Unit: 3637

Lin by making the connecting members shorter and the support members longer since applicant has not disclosed that having the first and second connecting member connected to a center section of the first support member and a center section of the second support member solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the support assembly would perform equally well with the first and second connecting members are connected to the centers of the first and second support members since it is functionally equivalent and works equally well.

4. As ascertained from figure 1-3, it appears that openings on the connecting members receive the elongated support members. It would have been obvious for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the support assembly of Lin by having the openings on the elongated support members to receive the connecting members, since applicant has not disclosed that having the openings on the elongated support members solves any stated problem or is for any particular purpose and it appears that the support assembly would perform equally well with the openings on the elongated support members to receive the connecting members since it is functionally equivalent and works equally well.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 3/12/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. This action is made final due to the fact that the amendment is only further defining elements that were inherently considered present in the previous claims with the phrase "generally C-shaped portion". Further Lin was described in the previous

office action to have said C-shaped portions with three elements, one of which was the center portion (A'; B'), it therefore is implied by the term "C-shaped" that the other two elements (K', I'; L', J') would be the end portions. In regards to the box-like region, it also is considered a further definition of the mounting structure of two generally C-shaped portions and brings no limitations that were not implied in the previous description of Lin or clearly taught as seen in figure 1. As described above the end portions of the C-shaped portions are considered connected to the center portions since the whole C-shaped portions are part of a continuous raised element/structure on the bottom of the tabletop.

Conclusion

5. All claims are drawn to the same invention claimed in the application prior to the entry of the submission under 37 CFR 1.114 and could have been finally rejected on the grounds and art of record in the next Office action if they had been entered in the application prior to entry under 37 CFR 1.114. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL** even though it is a first action after the filing of a request for continued examination and the submission under 37 CFR 1.114. See MPEP § 706.07(b). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

Art Unit: 3637

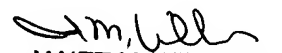
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy M. Ayres whose telephone number is (571) 272-8299. The examiner can normally be reached on MON-THU 8:00 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on (571) 272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

TMA
3/15/07



JANET M. WILKENS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
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